

Remarks

Claims 1-8 are pending. Claims 1-8 are rejected. Claims 1 and 7 are amended herein. No new matter is added. All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Interview Summary

On December 8, 2006, a telephonic interview was conducted. Claims 1 and 7 were discussed. The participants included applicants' representative Andrew J. Curtin (Reg. 48,485) and Examiner Ly. Agreement was reached that the amendments to claims 1 and 7 clarified that the assigning step is performed by the switch on a packet passing through the switch, which is sufficient to distinguish over the Nakamura reference teaching of priorities of sub-routing table entries.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakamura, et al., (U.S. 6,553,031 – Nakamura).

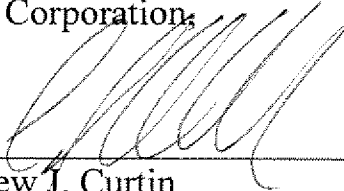
Claims 1 and 7 are amended herein according to the interview conducted on December 8, 2006.

The invention assigns transmission priorities to packets passing through a switch. Nakamura describes assigning entry priorities for addresses in a sub-routing table used by line interface boards in a switch. The priorities described in Nakamura are entry priorities for entry of addresses in the sub-routing table. Therefore, Nakamura cannot anticipate what is claimed.

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should further questions arise concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number listed below. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account 50-6350.

Respectfully submitted,
3Com Corporation,

By



Andrew J. Curtin
Attorney for the Assignee
Reg. No. 48,485

350 Campus Drive
Marlborough, MA 01752
Telephone: (508) 323-1330
Customer No. 56436